(c) the steps taken to enhance the allocation of foodgrains to meet the requirement; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The State Government of Orissa had requested in October, 1996 for increase in allocation of rice from 75,000 MTs to 1,00,000 MTs and wheat from 35,000 MTs to 50,000 MTs per month to cope with the situation arising out of the drought and price to cope with the situation arising out of the drought and price hike in the open market. The total monthly allocation of foodgrains was increased to 1,33,000 MTs (rice 1,00,000 MTs and wheat 33,000 MTs) for December, 1996; 1,40,000 MTs (rice 1,00,000 MTs and wheat 40,000 MTs) for January 1997 and 1,50,000 MTs (rice 1,00,000 MTs and wheat 50,000 MTs) for February and March, 1997.

The quantity of rice and wheat lifted by the State government has, however, been much less than the quantity allotted.

**Cases Registered under Consumer Protection Act by People from Rural Areas**

877. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement of the President of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum (NCDRF) to the effect that women in villages are the real consumers who should be benefited from Consumer Protection Act and Government's audio visual media should concentrate on it, which appeared in the Times of India dated the 21st December 1996;

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard; and

(c) the number of cases registered under this Act as on 15th February 1997 which have been filed by Consumers belonging to the rural areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution System is having regular programmes on consumer awareness which are especially prepared keeping in view the consumers of rural areas including women. During the year 1996-97, with the cooperation of Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Department brought out seven booklets intended for use in adult education programmes, containing topics for women and rural masses. The Department also publishes a magazine "Upabhokta Jagaran" on consumer protection which is sent to consumer organisations all over the country. With a view to taking care of the special problems of women consumers, the Consumer Protection Rules, 1987 provide for a representation of not less than 10 women in the Central Consumer Protection Council. Voluntary Consumer Associations are also helped financially to conduct Consumer Awarness Camps through Consumer Welfare Fund.

(c) The details regarding the number of cases registered under this Act are not maintained by the conumer courts on the basis of urban and rural areas. As per the latest available information, total number of cases registered in various District fora since their inception were 7,66,571.

**Revamped PDS for People below Poverty Line**

878. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI: SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the six crore families living below poverty line who will benefit by the revamped PDS by getting foodgrains at half the PDS prices;

(b) if so, the State-wise break up of such families;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by when these would be identified; and

(e) the amount of money that would be required as subsidy for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (e) A Statement has been made in the Rajya Sabha on 24.2.1997 on introduction of Targeted PDS and copies of the detailed guidelines including information on various aspects issued in this regard have also been laid on the Table of the House.

**Scheme to provide Highly Subsidised Cereals to Poor**

879. SHRI KRISHNHA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently launched a scheme to provide highly subsidised cereals to the poor in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for determining the poor beneficiaries of the scheme;

(d) the percentage by which the existing food subsidy is likely to rise as a result thereof;

(e) the estimated poor population falling under the criteria likely to be benefited by the scheme; and

(f) the estimated increase in the supply of foodgrains through PDS for distribution to the poor and the manner in which Government propose to maintain the additional supply of foodgrains to the PDS?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Government of India have decided to streamline the PDS with focus on the poor. A detailed Statement on the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been made in Rajya Sabha on 24.2.1997 and copies of the detailed guidelines including information on various aspects of TPDS issued in this regard have also been laid on the Table of the House.

**Quota of Sugar, Wheat and Rice for Bihar**

880. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the quota of sugar, wheat and rice released to Bihar during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 was far below the requirement of the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The following is the allocation and off-take of rice, wheat and sugar to Bihar State during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97:—

(In '000 MTs)

| YEAR | RICE | | WHEAT | | SUGAR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Alln. | Off-take | Alln. | Off-** take | Allocation* |
| 1994-95 | 372.00 | 39.70 | 714.00 | 222.30 | 407.88 |
| 1995-96 | 381.60 | 23.50 | 705.60 | 227.30 | 426.80 |
| 1996-97 | 389.60 | 26.10** | 697.60 | 351.70** | 464.12 |

*Off take reported to be 100%

**Off take figures are from April, 1996 to January, 1997.